

**Version with Markings to
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Kindly add the following new claims 18-37.

AMC
18. An exterior sheathing element comprising:
a main body having lateral sides;
a first edge portion on said main body between said lateral sides, said first edge portion including an innerface channel;
a second edge portion on said main body between said lateral sides and opposite said first edge portion, said second edge portion including an outerface channel; and
a mounting tab projecting from said second ^{edge} end portion so as to be substantially co-planar with respect to said main body; and
an overlapping section of said second ^{edge} end portion located near at least one of said lateral sides of said main body, said overlapping section being free of said mounting tab and being adapted to be overlapped with a side of an adjoining second sheathing element so that said first edge portion and said second edge portion of the sheathing element engage the first edge portion and the second edge portion of the adjoining second sheathing element, respectively; AND

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19. The sheathing element of claim 18, wherein said ~~second edge portion is adapted such that~~ ^{BOTH} a first edge portion of an adjoining third sheathing element can engage ~~at least one of~~ said second edge portion of the sheathing element and the second edge portion of the adjoining second sheathing element.

20. The sheathing element of claim 18, wherein said lateral sides of said main body comprise an upper side and a lower side, wherein said upper side and said lower side are defined with respect to a position after the sheathing element has been overlapped with the adjoining second sheathing element, said overlapping section being located at said upper side of said main body.

repeating said positioning of the first sheathing element, said overlaying of the second sheathing element, said engaging of the first edge portion and the second edge portion of the second sheathing element with the first edge portion and the second edge portion of the first sheathing element, said positioning of the third sheathing element, and said fixing of the first sheathing element as necessary so as to sheath the support structure.

Amended
24. An exterior sheathing element comprising:

a substantially planar main body having lateral sides and having ribs extending substantially parallel to said lateral sides, said ribs being located adjacent to one of said lateral sides of said main body;

a first edge portion on said main body between said lateral sides, said first edge portion including an innerface channel;

a second edge portion on said main body between said lateral sides and opposite said first edge portion, said second edge portion including an outerface channel; and

a mounting tab projecting from said second ^{edge} portion so as to be substantially co-planar with respect to said main body; and ^{SAID MOUNTING TAB BEING FORMED BY FOLDING AN END OF SAID SECOND EDGE PORTION BACK ACROSS SAID OUTERFACE CHANNEL SO AS TO PROJECT FROM SAID SECOND END PORTION;}

an overlapping section of said second ^{edge} portion located near at least one of said lateral sides of said main body, said overlapping section being free of said mounting tab and being adapted to be overlapped with a side of an adjoining second sheathing element so that said first edge portion of the sheathing element is located within the innerface channel of the first edge portion of the adjoining second sheathing element, and so that the overlapping section of the second ^{edge} portion of the adjoining second sheathing element is located within said outerface channel of the sheathing element; ^{AND}

Amended
25. The sheathing element of claim 24, wherein said second edge portion is adapted such that a first edge portion of an adjoining third sheathing element can be engaged over at least one of said second edge portion of the sheathing element and the second edge portion of the adjoining second sheathing element. ^{ENGAGE BOTH}

element, said positioning of the third sheathing element, and said fixing of the first sheathing element as necessary so as to sheath the support structure.

Amended

28. An exterior sheathing element comprising:
a substantially planar main body having lateral sides;
a first edge portion on said main body between said lateral sides, said first edge portion including a longitudinal innerface channel;
a second edge portion on said main body between said lateral sides and opposite said first edge portion, said second edge portion including a longitudinal outerface channel; and
a mounting tab projecting from said second ^{edge} portion so as to be substantially co-planar with respect to said main body; ^{and}

wherein one of said lateral sides of the sheathing element is adapted to be overlapped with a side of an adjoining second sheathing element so that a side portion of said first edge portion of the sheathing element is located within the innerface channel of the adjoining second sheathing element, and so that a side portion of the second edge portion of the adjoining second edge portion is located within said outerface channel of the sheathing element; ^{AND}

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29. The sheathing element of claim 28, ²⁸ wherein ~~said second edge portion is adapted such that~~ a first edge portion of an adjoining third sheathing element can ^{ENGAGE BOTH} be engaged over at least one of said second edge portion of the sheathing element and the second edge portion of the adjoining second sheathing element.

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30. The sheathing element of claim 28, wherein ^{nb} said mounting tab projects from only a section of said second ^{edge} portion so as to form an overlapping section of said second ^{edge} portion located near one of said lateral sides of said main body, wherein said overlapping section is free of said mounting tab.